

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 29, wherein the amount of the dimerdiol ester is 0.1-50% by weight in the cosmetic or external agent.

18. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 33, wherein the dimerdiol ester is of a monocarboxylic acid having 10 to 32 carbon atoms.

19. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 18, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a branched fatty acid.

20. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 18, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a linear unsaturated fatty acid having 10 to 32 carbon atoms.

21. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 18, wherein the monocarboxylic acid comprises a rosin or a hydrogenated rosin.

22. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 29, wherein the dimerdiol ester is of a dicarboxylic acid.

23. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 22, wherein the dicarboxylic acid comprises an acid represented by the following structural formula 3:



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 16.

24. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 22, wherein the dicarboxylic acid comprises a dimer acid.

25. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 22, wherein the dimerdiol ester is obtained by an esterification reaction of a dimerdiol with a dicarboxylic acid wherein the charging ratio is from 0.2 to 1.2 mol in terms of the molar amount of a dicarboxylic acid based on the average molecular weight calculated from its acid value per 1 mol of a dimerdiol based on the average molecular weight calculated from its hydroxyl value.

26. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 22, wherein the weight-average molecular weight of the dimerdiol ester is from 4000 to 12000.

27. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 29, which further comprises an antioxidant.

28. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic or an external agent according to claim 27, wherein the antioxidant is vitamin E.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A cosmetic or an external agent comprising a dimerdiol ester of a monocarboxylic acid having 10 to 32 carbon atoms and/or a dimerdiol ester of a dicarboxylic acid, wherein said dimerdiol is a dimerdiol produced by hydrogenating a dimer acid obtained by dimerization of an unsaturated fatty acid having 11 to 22 carbon atoms.

30. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. **(Previously Presented)** A cosmetic or an external agent comprising a dimerdiol ester of a monocarboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- i) linear saturated acids having 4 to 34 carbon atoms,
- ii) branched fatty acids having 4 to 34 carbon atoms,
- iii) linear unsaturated acids having 10 to 32 carbon atoms,
- iv) hydroxy acids having 4 to 34 carbon atoms and
- v) cyclic acids having 4 to 34 carbon atoms, selected from the group consisting of cyclohexanoic acid, hydrogenated rosin, rosin, abietic acid, hydrogenated abietic acid, benzoic acid, p-oxybenzoic acid, p-aminobenzoic acid, salicylic acid, gallic acid, pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and nicotinic acid; and/or a dimerdiol ester of a dicarboxylic acid, and

wherein said dimerdiol is a dimerdiol produced by hydrogenating a dimer acid obtained by dimerization of an unsaturated fatty acid having 11 to 22 carbon atoms.